<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (original)   A system (100) comprising a plurality of interconnected devices (101-105) and being arranged to provide the devices (101-105) conditional access to protected content items, characterized in that the system (100) is arranged to restrict the number of simultaneous sessions involving said protected content items to a predetermined total limit.

2.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 1, being arranged to restrict the number of content items that can be accessed simultaneously to the predetermined limit.

3.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 2, comprising at least one security module (300) for providing the devices (101-105) the conditional access and being arranged to restrict the number of content items that can be accessed simultaneously to the predetermined limit.

4.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 3, in which a new security module that is to be added to the system must authenticate itself to the system, during which authentication the new security

module is arranged to report the number of simultaneous accesses to content it is arranged to provide.

5. (original) The system (100) of claim 4, being arranged to refuse to authenticate the new security module if the reported number exceeds a predetermined individual limit.

6. (original) The system (100) of claim 4, being arranged to indicate to the new security module a maximum number of simultaneous accesses it may provide simultaneously if the reported number exceeds a predetermined individual limit.

7. (original) The system (100) of claim 4, being arranged to authenticate the new security module only if a sufficient period of time has elapsed since the last time the new security module was added to the system.

8. (original) The system (100) of claim 3, comprising a plurality of security modules, each security module being arranged to restrict the number of content items to which it provides access simultaneously to an individual limit, the system being arranged to restrict the sum of the individual limits to the predetermined total limit.

9.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 8, in which one security module of said plurality is arranged to increase its individual limit in response to another security module of said plurality decreasing its individual limit.

10.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 9, comprising a number of capacity master security modules and a number of capacity slave security modules, a capacity slave security modules being arranged to increase its individual limit only in response to a capacity master security module decreasing its individual limit.

11.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 8, being arranged to distribute a number of session tokens to the plurality of security modules, said number corresponding to the predetermined total limit, each security module being arranged to restrict the number of content items to which it provides access simultaneously to the number of session tokens distributed to that security module.

12.   (original)   The system (100) of claim 2, being arranged to restrict the number of simultaneous accesses to content of a first type to a first predetermined total limit, and the number of

simultaneous accesses to content of a second type to a second predetermined total limit.

13. (original) The system (100) of claim 12, in which the first type comprises pay-per-view content and the second type comprises free-to-air content.

14. (original) The system (100) of claim 1, being arranged to restrict the number of devices (101-105) that are active simultaneously to the predetermined total limit.

15. (currently amended) The system (100) of ~~any previous claim~~claim 1, being arranged to determine whether the predetermined total limit has been reached in a weighted fashion, in which sessions of different types are assigned different weights.

16. (currently amended) The system (100) of ~~any previous claim~~claim 1, being arranged to restrict the number of simultaneous sessions of a first type to a first predetermined total limit and the number of simultaneous sessions of a second type to a second predetermined total limit.

17. (original) The system (100) of claim 16, in which the first type comprises a rendering of a content item and the second type comprises a recording of a content item.

18. (currently amended) The system (100) of ~~any previous claim~~claim 1, being arranged to refuse a session if allowing said session would cause the number of simultaneous sessions to exceed the predetermined total limit.

19. (currently amended) The system (100) of ~~any previous claim~~claim 1, being arranged to allow a session at a reduced quality level if allowing said session would cause the number of simultaneous sessions to exceed the predetermined total limit.

20. (original) The system (100) of claim 19, being arranged to reduce a quality level of all simultaneous sessions.